

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs starting on page 9, line 20 as follows:

a1
Next, hash ~~422~~ 322 is checked using negotiated secret key 304 and pre-shared secret key 314. If it is properly formed, firewall forms a hash 329 of negotiated secret key 304, pre-shared secret key 314 and constant 326.

Please amend the paragraphs starting on page 11, line 3 as follows:

a2
Next, hash 329 is sent to computer system 104~~firewall 110~~, where it is checked using negotiated secret key 304, pre-shared secret key 314 and constant 326. If hash 329 is properly formed, communication mechanism 317 within firewall 110 subsequently uses negotiated secret key 304 to encrypt communications with communication mechanism 316 in computer system 104. Similarly, communication mechanism 316 within computer system 104 subsequently uses negotiated secret key 304 to encrypt communications with communication mechanism 317 ~~316~~ in firewall 110.